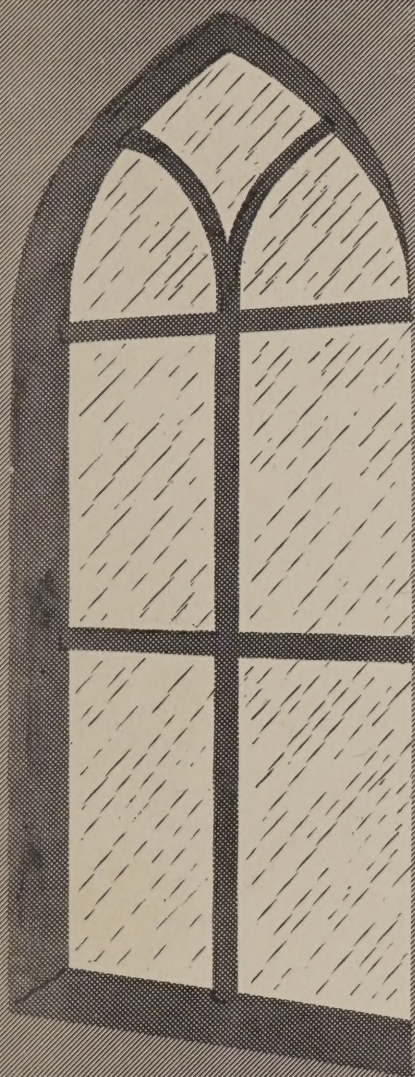


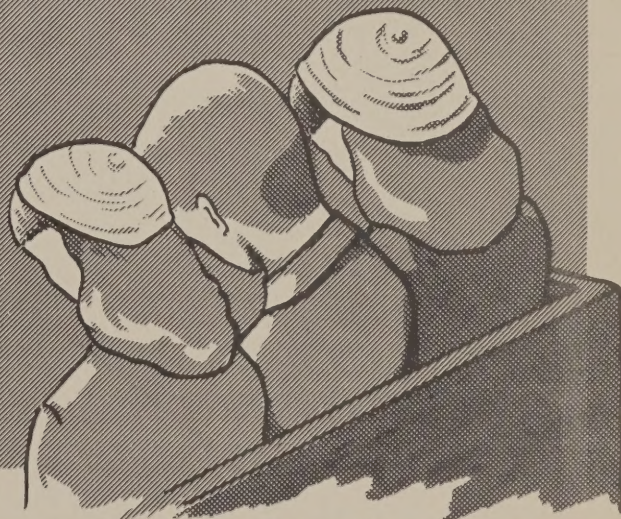
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Observance of
**Rural Life
Sunday**

by 4-H Clubs
1951

*Theme: Working together
for world understanding.*



**EXTENSION SERVICE • U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, COOPERATING**

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The spiritual development of the individual is essential to a full, well-rounded life of service to the community and to the Nation. During these critical times, it is more important than ever before to recognize that, in this development, the Church plays a large part. Through the centuries, it has proved a source of strength which has enabled both youth and adults to meet unflinchingly life's problems. It has given hope to those whose feet have faltered. It has helped to renew faith in their ability to serve and to serve well. It has brought to all whose hearts are attuned to the Infinite that inspiration and sense of spiritual unity with one's fellowmen that is essential to any people in time of crisis.

Therefore, it seems most appropriate that 4-H members set aside one Sunday during the year as 4-H Sunday. This year it will occur on April 29 or some Sunday in May. The 4-H theme for 1951, "Working Together for World Understanding," will be highlighted in connection with the emphasis on prayer as a powerful weapon in the struggle for peace.

As each 4-H member attends the church of his choice, it is the hope that there will be awakened a new realization of the power of prayer. Through prayer, even miracles may be accomplished if all earnestly work together for world understanding and are buttressed by a faith in God's power to bring peace to those who believe in Him--a faith extending beyond the light of knowledge and a faith upon which were built our Constitution and the institutions of democracy.

MZ Wilson

Director of Extension Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

1951

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization of 4-H Club Work

THEME: WORKING TOGETHER FOR WORLD UNDERSTANDING

EMPHASIS: Importance of Prayer

DATE: April 29 or some Sunday in May

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Spiritual Development	Foreword
Power of Prayer	1
Participation of 4-H Clubs in Observance of National 4-H Club Sunday.	2
Origin of 4-H Club Sunday	3
National 4-H Sunday Sermon.	4
Suggestive Ways of Participation in Church Services .	7
Thoughts in Relation to the Theme with Its Emphasis on Prayer	9
A 4-H Service of Dedication	15
4-H Prayers	17
The Spiritual Influence in the American Way of Life .	19
The Spiritual Influence in 4-H Club Work.	20
Song and Prayer for Peace	21

POWER OF PRAYER
IN THE
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today. It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirit. It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It may reveal God's way to victory. It may be the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can long survive.

Because it transcends in importance all else, special emphasis will be placed upon the power of prayer in connection with the 1951 National 4-H Theme, "Working Together for World Understanding."

In this circular are many references to what can be accomplished through prayer - such as the experiences of Eddie Rickenbacker, as well as those of many other leaders in the world of affairs.

Also to be noted are the references to the increasing recognition of spiritual laws and the importance of the spiritual development of the individual on the part of leading scientists today. Many such references may be found in the inspiring National 4-H Sunday sermon by the distinguished Washington correspondent, Dr. Jacob Simpson Payton.

It may well be pointed out by those observing National 4-H Club Sunday, either on April 29 or on some Sunday during the month of May, that the power of prayer is being felt today as never before. From the legislative halls in our Nation's Capital, as well as from the skyscrapers in our large cities, to the town meeting houses on our Nation's village greens, men and women and youth are meeting in increasing numbers to pray for divine guidance and strength to carry out the will of God during these critical days.

Let us pray that National 4-H Club Sunday may be a source of inspiration to all participating and that it may be made as meaningful and worth while as possible as we highlight our National 4-H Fourteen-Point Program with its slogan, "Above All - Freedom," and its special 4-H Defense Mobilization Pledge:

As a 4-H Club member and an alert citizen of our great Nation, I will earnestly work to preserve our deeply rooted spiritual heritage, our time-proven democratic government for free men, and our vast wealth in manifold human and natural resources.

PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about home, community, and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Working Together for a Better World."

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual values and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.

Helps 4-H members to demonstrate their loyalty and to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

Enables 4-H members to associate church activities with their every day living.

TO YOUTH

FROM A GREAT SCIENTIST

Blessed is the man who carries within him a God, an ideal, and who obeys it - ideal of art, ideal of science, ideal of the Gospel virtues. Therein lie the springs of great thoughts and great actions.

--Louis Pasteur.

ORIGIN OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, or Rural Life Sunday, is observed by church organizations throughout the Nation to emphasize the meaning of Christianity in rural life. It occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter and is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the 3 days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to A.D. 475. In A.D. 511 they were ordered observed throughout France; and in A.D. 747 were established in England by church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.

The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting was widely observed. Hardly an ancient people but sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When therefore, 4-H members assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted also that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

INFLUENCE OF PRAYER

All my life, I have begun my day in court with a silent earnest prayer. I would not dream of undertaking work without asking my God for guidance.

--Richard S. Whaley,
Chief Justice of the U. S.
Court of Claims.

PRAYER AND NATIONAL GREATNESS

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY SERMON

Dr. Jacob Simpson Payton*

THEY CAME PRAYING

On all sides we are hearing that America must be strong. Reference is to more and better guns, tanks, fighter planes, and of course, to a mounting stockpile of atomic bombs. This led a Senator to remind his colleagues recently that while an emergency might require a sword of steel, there was never a time when reliance should not be placed upon the sword of the Spirit.

National security requires the maintenance of a spiritual arsenal. One of its weapons is prayer. From the pages of American history one can hear the earliest arrivals from the Old World at prayer. A stretched sail formed a sanctuary for the first Virginians down on the James River. Up in New England a rock served as an altar for the Pilgrims. Later Lord Baltimore's colonists knelt before a giant cross raised on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River down at St. Marys. Likewise, the Dutch along the Hudson River, the Swedes in Delaware and the Quakers in Pennsylvania consecrated America to God on first going ashore.

Whenever in all the long story of migration and colonization have pioneers of more colossal religious faith appeared than came to America in those little ships? They were praying people. They thanked God for a safe voyage; they sought his guidance as they faced perils in their new wilderness home.

PRAYER AND NATIONAL GREATNESS

Yes, America must be kept strong, but this will be impossible if prayer which has helped to make her strong is neglected. Along every wilderness trail the faithful offered supplications beside their camp fires. In the cabins of the frontiersmen; in the sodhouses of the homesteaders, and in all other remote and lonely outposts of forest and prairie, parents asked the help of the Lord in directing their children into paths of sobriety, industry and usefulness. The result was that generation after generation came to be described as constituting the solid, God-fearing citizenry. These families were the glory of their day. They made home life wholesome and communities law-abiding. In a true sense they prayed America into greatness.

*Widely known Washington Correspondent for Religious Papers.

This course has never been abandoned. Indeed it is too sacred, too thoroughly tested by time and too necessary for national preservation to forsake. At one time or other nearly every nostrum has been prescribed as the hope of America. Those of the crackpots have been rejected, and fortunately those of the wise and far-seeing have been approved.

The Republic always has been blest with what may be described as a sort of national policy acceptable to all political parties, and citizens of all racial and religious origins. It is a powerful spiritual alliance of those who work openly or in secret and silence. They are members of the grand order of those who pray for America. With confidence those who are older look to youth, strong in the strength of numbers and loyalty, to maintain the unbroken sequence of supplication for the welfare of the land they love.

AID TO GOOD CITIZENSHIP

What America needs is practice on a national scale of good, old-fashioned honesty. A man once prayed, "Help me to remember that three feet make one yard, sixteen ounces make one pound and sixty minutes make one hour." Should all Americans who are old enough to discern between right and wrong begin to offer that prayer tomorrow, there would follow such an upswing for righteousness as would amaze everybody.

Some confusing claims for prayer have been made. There is general agreement, however, that if a person will turn daily to the Supreme Being, source of all goodness, he will become like that goodness. It is like walking from a cave into the sunlight; from a miasmatic swamp to a hilltop; from an atmosphere of degradation into a place where wholesomeness abounds.

Communion with God affords wonderful lifting power. "Help me to remember," may not be answered by the removal of temptations, but rather by the reception of sufficient strength to resist them. So it is that the youth who daily asks God for help to keep in mind the way of truth and honor receives reinforcement against cheating in the classroom, on the athletic field, or at the market. Thus, through prayer the Unseen Power becomes an ally against dishonesty, indecency, arrogance and all other assailants of character.

AN ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANY

The roster of those who believe in prayer contain so many eminent names that the wonder is that the benefits of prayer should be doubted. These are not confined to cloistered saints of long ago, although they offer an inspiring testimonial.

Michael Faraday, famed chemist, communed with God not only while busy with his experiments, but regularly at a midweek prayer service in a humble London chapel. John Tyndall, a scientist who hesitated to accept what he could not prove, acknowledged that prayer in its purer

forms hints at disciplines which few of us can neglect without moral loss." Alexis Carrel, physician preeminent, acknowledged personally his dependence upon "that steady flow of sustaining power" from prayer which he had observed in his patients. These are only a few among many scientists who have borne faithful witness to the efficacy of prayer.

If we seek an example in public life we may turn to Charles E. Wilson, Director of the office of Defense Mobilization. How beginning with turning over to his widowed mother his weekly pay envelope containing \$3.00, he rose to the presidency of one of America's major business concerns and later was selected as the coordinator of all business in a period of national crisis, is a record of dazzling achievement.

But Mr. Wilson's life offers an even more important success story. His childhood spent on the sidewalks of New York City in a community not notable for righteousness, presented two types of friendship. He chose the better. In the rough and tumble of business life with production, sales and profits as the main objectives, Mr. Wilson might have had his sense of values warped. He might have concluded that the dollar was the mightiest thing in America, and that he would take time to worship nothing else.

Instead he has remained a worshiper of the one true God. As chairman of the National Laymen's Committee of Religion in American Life he leads in seeking to make America a praying nation. When as Defense Mobilizer he presented his first report to the people, he concluded in these words: "I hope that each of you will think it appropriate as I do, to conclude this report by acknowledging that in our task we need the help that comes from Almighty God, and wisdom beyond our own."

Mr. Wilson shares the belief of many that our national security against war is in air, sea and ground superiority. He urged that all Americans employ in addition, however, the powerful weapon of prayer at which the Godless Kremlin crowd scoffs. "Let's bow our heads in humble supplication for His help and guidance--and then do the job to be done." And that confession of dependence upon prayer in personal and national affairs was made by a man upon whom has been bestowed more power than upon any former American.

WROUGHT BY PRAYER

..More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friends?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

--Tennyson.

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN

CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministerial associations, other ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible. Select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this manual.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club Committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, certain features that highlight the theme for the year may be dramatized.

OTHER WAYS OF 4-H PARTICIPATION

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, and scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate.

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives, and thus they can be helped "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhang the world.

THE COUNTRY CHURCH

When country church bells stop ringing, religion will disappear from the face of the earth. Spiritual growth is essential because when spiritual growth and development stop in an individual, other growth is abnormal. Just as the business world depends upon rural life for its strength, growth, vitality, and replacements, the city church looks to the rural church for its leadership. In these days of stress nothing could be of more importance or greater value to our rural people than a greater appreciation of the rural church and its influence on community development and rural life.

--L. R. Harrill
State 4-H Club Ldr.
North Carolina

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION

In the further spiritual development of the nation we may well begin with rural people who work close with God in the growing of plants and animals; who hear His voice in the winds, the storm, the song of birds, the rustling of growing corn, the silence of the night; and see Him in the beauty of morning and evening sun, the wild rose, the spider's web.

Rural youth who want to build real homes, raise up godly children, and help build a righteous nation may well be the right hand of the church in carrying forward this spiritual work.

--C. B. Smith.

A NATION'S LIFE

I know three things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free;
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,
With busy, happy loved ones near.
One is a ready, cordial hand,
To love and serve and keep the land.
One is a worn and beaten way,
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive;
God keep them always, everywhere,
The Hearth, the Flag, the Place of Prayer.

--Clarence Flynn.

CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

There is nothing more exciting in the world than to be conscious of inwardly achieving something new; and anyone who puts into practice the life of Christ on earth, cannot fail to feel the growth in his own mastery over self. Under the Democracy based on such a religious impulse, there would still, of course, be leaders, and there would still be people of initiative interested and prodding other people to attempt the development of new ideas, or to participate in new enjoyments which they had not before understood or experienced.

Under such a Democracy the living standard of all the people would be gradually rising. That is what the youth of the next generation will be primarily interested in achieving, because that is the vital gain in Democracy for the future, if we base it on the Christian way of life as lived by the Christ.

--Eleanor Roosevelt.

All you need for any job is a great heart
inspired by God.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes.

ARTHUR GODFREY'S OWN STORY

Somewhere in this universe is a timeless undeniable force. It is stronger than granite, steel, majestic mountains towering into the sky--or nuclear fission. Sooner or later--in strange and different manifestations--that force touches every human being. Sure, some pass it off as a phenomenon that somehow cannot be reduced to exact scientific formula. To others it is the hand of the Almighty--a reminder that regardless of the grandeur of man and his accomplishments--God is still "running the show" here on earth.

Now, I want to tell you of such an experience. It's about my dad--God bless him!

Dad was one of the most brilliant and warm persons I have ever known. A lecturer, newspaper man, magazine writer and raconteur--he was at home in any society. He was the well-rounded man I have always wanted to be. Of course, he had failings, too. One was a disinclination towards business and finance. As a result, he went through several small fortunes and sometimes things were tough at home. That is why I went on my own at fifteen. But, I never blamed dad.

All this is prelude to the point I want to make. But, if in telling it--one human, faltering on the precipice of lost faith or shaken belief--takes heart--my telling the story will have been worthwhile. For out of it, I learned first hand about that timeless force in this world. Now, whenever the adulation of the crowd dins in my ears... whenever temporary wealth and fame assault my senses and balance--it helps me remember that force--transcendent above the world itself. It makes me remember how the hand of God is at work constantly and I am humble in His presence.

It was in 1923. I was stationed on board a Navy destroyer--in charge of radio communications. I had knocked around a lot since I left home. The years and life had not been too kind but the Navy had been a sanctuary, the only security I had known for a long time. One day, tired, I fell asleep in my bunk and I dreamed. My dad--I had not seen him for years--suddenly walked into the room. He offered his hand, saying, "So long, son." I answered, "So long, dad." I said some kind of prayer. It wasn't eloquent but it came from the heart.

I never saw him again. When I woke up, my buddies told me that at the exact time while I was asleep, the wires from shore hummed the news of my dad's death.

Don't tell me about science and its exact explanation of everything. Some things are bigger. God is the difference. He gets around.

EARL GODWIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PRAYER

The power we wish to connect with by prayer is GOD, or God's love, or God's Power or the Universal Mind or Universal Heart...whatever you want to call it.

It is a storehouse of every force and idea and power there is. It runs the Universe. If it could be likened to an electrical battery or dynamo or power house then the means by which we reach it for power would be a good clean connection, a good wire and a clean plug, with no short circuiting strands. If we turn it off or take the plug out of the connection, the power stops but the power is there in the storehouse or storage battery or the power house. All you have to do to get that power coursing through you again is to plug in properly. The Father says he will forgive your sins and sidesteps if you come back whole and clean; and the electric current says I'll flow through the wire and do your work if the connection and wire are clean and suitable.

I am interested in personal demonstrations of this power. To those who scorn the idea of religion or church going, may I suggest that a plain study of metaphysics will open their eyes. Science is getting closer to the fact that there is a Universal Cause. Scientists are conceding that prayer CAN bring results. Read the works of the late Dr. Alexis Carrell, a famed French scientist. He wrote a treatise on prayer that beats many a theological effort. Science had a long warfare with Theology but both science and theology are getting together and science is beginning to respect the incomprehensible mysteries of Faith. One recent announcement along that line was by Nobel Prize Winner, and head of the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Robert A. Millikan. He told a gathering of the leading physicists that a lifetime of scientific research had convinced him there is a Creative and Creating first cause. he called it Divinity. and said that a purely materialistic philosophy is the height of un-intelligence.

You find beautiful prayers in the Bible, in prayer books. And you find prayers such as are reported with the immediate results in that book called "We Thought We Heard the Angels Sing" about Eddie Rickenbacker and the appalling adventures of his comrades when their plane went down in mid-Pacific. They floated about in inadequate rubber life boats, starving and burning with thirst after days of this crisis, one member, seeing a rain cloud raining, pouring down fresh water, but going away from their position, started praying like this; "God, that's Your cloud...we need the rain..it's blowing away from us..but it is Your cloud and if you want you can make that cloud turn around and come this way..."

AND THE MIRACLE IS THAT THE CLOUD STARTED COMING TOWARD THEM AGAINST THE WIND.

And try this "I put myself and all my affairs into the loving hands of the Father, with child-like Faith - that which is to my best good will come to me"....

ATTITUDES OF SCIENTISTS TOWARD PRAYER

Great men in all ages have turned to God for help; prayer brings harmony to the life of the humble. Even the old hostility of science is beginning to be tempered by a respect for the incomprehensible mysteries of faith. Only a few months ago, Dr. Robert A. Millikan, 82-year-old Nobel Prize winner, and head of the California Institute of Technology, told the country's leading physicists that a lifetime of scientific research has convinced him that there is a Divinity that is shaping the destiny of man. No scientist has delved more deeply into the mechanisms of matter than Millikan. It was he who first determined the charge and mass of the electron, the smallest particle in the universe. In his recent speech he said:

"Just how we fit into the plans of the Great Architect and how much He has assigned us to do we do not know, but if we fail in our assignment it is pretty certain that part of the job will be left undone. But fit in we certainly do somehow, else we would not have a sense of our own responsibility. A purely materialistic philosophy is to me the height of unintelligence."

--Fulton Oursler.

A world that has science needs as never before the inspiration and direction that prayerful religion has to offer. Beyond the nature taught by science is the spirit that gives meaning to life.

--Arthur H. Compton
Nobel Laureate
Chancellor, Washington University.

Must a scientist doubt the reality of miracles? As a scientist I answer emphatically: No, I can see no reason at all why Almighty God, Who created us and all things around us, should not suspend or change--if He finds it wise to do so--the natural, average course of events.

In regard to the deepest issues of mankind scientists, like many others, are groping in the dark. Nevertheless a good religious education, combined with scientific training, tends to give a scientist a better understanding both of nature and of human life.

--Victor Francis Hess
Professor of Physics,
Fordham University
Nobel Prize Winner.

THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES

The greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines. Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer and the spiritual forces which, as yet, have been hardly scratched. When that day comes, the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has seen in the last four.

--Dr. Charles Steinmetz.

I call to your attention one more principle and attribute of effective leadership. The principle of prayer, as you know, has been used by all great men and is a profound influence and power with each of us. I wish to quote Benjamin Franklin's prayer: "O Powerful Goodness! Beautiful Father! Merciful Guide! Increase in me that wisdom which discovers my truest interest. Strengthen my resolution to perform what that wisdom dictates. Accept my kind offices to Thy other children as the only return in my power for Thy continued favors to me."

He who is in the service of his fellow man is in the service of God.

--A. E. Bowman

YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

In the home, in all our personal relationships, we must practice love and we must pass on the message of the good life. As you grow in love for others, you will find your own power increasing. You will learn how to disagree without being disagreeable. You will become more approachable. You will better understand why all people want to be truly loved and not just tolerated. You will emphasize more and more the good side of even the worst people. You will develop an inner warmth, an abiding sense of humor; naturally you will make mistakes, but you will always be able to laugh at yourself. Your never-say-die spirit will give courage to everyone you meet.

Life itself will take on a new and exhilarating meaning, because you will be fulfilling the purpose for which you were created: to love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself.

--James Keller
Founder of The Christophers.

A 4-H SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Suggested by 4-H Club Staff of New Mexico

(Select someone who can make this part of the program as sacred and reverent as possible.)

Reading: In Genesis we find "I will make of thee a great nation. In thee shall all the peoples of the earth be blest."

This was the Scripture read by Rev. John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrim Church at Leyden, Holland, as the Pilgrims embarked in 1620. Even after half of them were dead during the first terrible winter in Plymouth, they dared to have dauntless faith in the promise of national greatness and world blessing.

The new nation on the new continent today finds those prophecies fulfilled in incredible and lavish possessions and power.

Let us now rededicate ourselves to the building of a Christian nation.

Invocation: Our Father, we praise Thee for all Thou hast done for us as a nation. It is through Thy goodness that ours is "A land of the free and a home of the brave" and it will be through our allegiance to Thee that we shall receive power and wisdom for its preservation. Invoke anew Thy blessings upon our President, the officials of our Government, and the citizens of our land. Enable us to take our place among the nations of the world in a spirit of humbleness rather than pride, with a desire to help more than to be helped, with righteousness and sobriety unmistakably present at all times and the love of truth flourishing in our hearts. In His name we ask it. Amen.

Salute to the Flags:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

Reading: We conserve democracy by establishing it upon an enduring foundation. Democracy is founded upon voluntary cooperation and not upon force. Voluntary cooperation is based upon Christian ideals and principles—love, fellowship, consideration of others.

Christianity has existed under all forms of government. Democracy has never existed for long except where the Christian religion was infused into the thinking and living of its people.

Singing: America.

Reading: American citizens need an inner guiding light. God can put that light into our hearts. The ancient sailboats followed the stars, but they could not venture far from shore. Man discovered the mariner's compass, and ships were thereafter guided by an instrument within. They were able to sail across the ocean and discover new country. Our Nation needs not the outward signs to chart our course. We need the inner spirit of the living God dwelling in our hearts.

Poem From the Ship of State.....Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thou, too, sail on, O ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all its hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock,
'Tis but the flappings of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith, triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, -- are all with thee!

4-H PRAYERS

Across the Nation, a choice collection of 4-H prayers is now taking shape. These 4-H prayers, like the 4-H songs and 4-H ceremonials, may do much to clarify ideals of right living and those spiritual qualities which characterize men of faith and courage, men of integrity of spirit, men who cherish adherence to truth and righteousness and loyalty to one's best self above personal gain. These are the kind of men - yes, and women, too - whom 4-H Club work, through its work and social and spiritual experiences, seeks to build - that America may be strong in rendering service and inspiration to the peoples of the world in need.

4-H INVOCATION

Our Father, we beseech Thee to bless this meeting. Open Thou our eyes that we may see Thy bountiful blessings; open our hands that we may better serve Thee; inspire our minds that we may comprehend Thy teachings; give us health and strength to do Thy will; and open our hearts that we may find room for love for all Thy people in every land.

As Thou dost send the rain to cleanse and refresh the earth, and the sunshine to purify and revitalize it, so cleanse our lives and revitalize us with Thy unceasing love.

We ask Thy blessings on all our fellow 4-H Club members, our leaders, our friends, our Government, and those of other lands.

These blessings we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray together saying:

(Repeat the Lord's Prayer.)

Amen.

--George Foster,
State Club Agent, Tenn.

4-H BLESSING

Dear Father, we thank Thee for food that gives our bodies health, strength, and endurance; and we pray that each of us seated here may be blessed with greater faith, love, and understanding, the better to do Thy will and to serve our fellow men.
Amen.

--Florence Taylor.

A 4-H PRAYER

Thou Eternal Spirit of Life, in our 4-H Club work, give us the power to be thankful for our many varied experiences. May we rejoice with those who have won recognition and be sharers in the satisfactions that come from doing a worth-while piece of work. Where there have been disappointments, may they carry with them some lesson which will be of future advantage. If there has been any experience we should forget, give us the power and grace to cast it from our minds, but let the aroma of the pleasant carry back to our homes and clubs. We pray Thy favor on our club leaders and associates, on our county extension agents, and may our local helpers, who have given so freely and unselfishly of their time, feel that they have been doing Thy service. As we have freely received, may we be prepared to pass on that which we have gained; to serve our communities as we have been served. May we see Jesus in our everyday contacts and may He become the pattern of our lives. Amen.

--Rev. J. R. Hargreaves.

4-H PRAYER AT 4-H EVENT

Our Heavenly Father we rejoice in this hour that brings us together. We thank Thee for a Nation that is interested in her rural people; a Nation that furnishes financial, intellectual, and spiritual protection for her people.

We give hearty thanks for these young men and women who are here today representing the 4-H Clubs of America. We rejoice in their achievements; in their desire to build a better rural America; in their desire to feed a hungry world; in their passion to preserve the democratic American way of life with its freedom as an example for all nations to follow.

Our Heavenly Father, we pray Thy blessings upon all those who are to have a part in this program. Give steadiness of mind and heart that they may bring their very best to these services. Help us, O Father, that we may drink from that which thou hast provided for us.

We rejoice that into this world of ours, with its imperfections and failure, there came One who is better than our best thoughts, and higher than our highest aspirations. In His light we see how far short we are of being what we ought to be. For somehow He speaks to the deepest depth of our being and awakens great longings to be like Him. Grant unto us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, that we too may have the spirit of truth, the spirit of passionate purity, the spirit of sacrificial service which characterized our Lord as He walked among men. For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.

--W. A. Sutton, State Club Ldr.
Georgia.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the
Observance of 4-H Club Sunday

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

The official documents of American history ... affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

--United States Supreme Court decision.

A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade.

--Theodore Roosevelt.

The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country.

--William Howard Taft.

Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually.

--Woodrow Wilson.

The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.

--Calvin Coolidge.

Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization.

--Herbert Hoover.

The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed.

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service, and

My health to better living,

For my club, my community, and my country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

4-H CLUB MOTTO

To Make the Best Better

FINLANDIA - A SONG OF PEACE

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, Thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

--Sibelius.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

"Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

"For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

--St. Francis of Assisi(1182-1226)

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404